



# Follow the Leader Newsletter

Profits Higher from a Mount Linton Sire

SPRING 2007

## Proven meat yield results

Alliance recently announced that for the coming season it would be adding a loyalty payment over and above schedule price for each carcass that showed the desired combination of shoulder, loin and leg meat yield.

Objective meat yield information from Via Scan technology at Alliance shows Mount Linton is well positioned to capture the reward for high meat yield in 2007/2008.

Based on the 2006/07 season's results, 93% of the Genetic Units lambs and 83% of the Stations lambs will potentially receive the new loyalty payment. The beauty of this payment system is its focus on the genetics that produce what the market wants.



*These yield results are a reflection of a high MyoMAX incidence in our Texel and Suftex flocks.*

The objective information available through Alliance has also revealed Mount Linton lambs not only meet the new meat yield specifications but the carcasses have higher overall meat yields than average. In 2006/07, lambs from the Genetic Unit and Station averaged 57% and 55% total meat yield respectively. This is 2-5% higher than the industry average of 52-53%.

**TABLE 1: Mount Linton Lamb Yield Summary**

		GENETICS UNIT		STATION	
		1/10/06-29/09/07		1/5/07-30/9/07	
		No. Ccs	% of kill	No. Ccs	% of kill
<b>LEG</b>	No. lambs 20.70% yield and over	1075	97%	8332	90%
<b>LOIN</b>	No. lambs 13.50% yield and over	1051	95%	8358	91%
<b>SHOULDER</b>	No. lambs 16.40% yield and over	1088	99%	8643	94%
<b>No. of these lambs with combined leg, loin and shoulder all above threshold</b>		<b>1028</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>7625</b>	<b>83%</b>

**TABLE 2: Average performance of Mount Linton Genetic Unit lambs in 2006/07**

Carcasses	Av. Weight	Leg Yield	Loin Yield	Shldr Yield	Total Yield
1098	17.59kg	23.19%	15.15%	18.66%	57%

## From the General Manager



### STRONG FUTURE FOR SHEEP AND BEEF

We are having the best spring for some time and although we have just started lambing and are by no means out of jail yet, it is a great start and long may it continue.

There is a great deal of hype in Southland at the moment around the dairy industry and like many others we have looked at all the options. I believe that entering any industry at the top end of the cycle is fraught with danger as cows increased in value by \$1000 between when we first did the sums and now. There will be other opportunities for us to support the huge growth in dairy farming in Southland without having to milk cows.

I believe there is a strong future in producing quality grass fed beef and lamb that has been reared with minimal chemical input in systems that are environmentally sustainable and traceable. Both we and our genetic clients are well set up for this at Mount Linton. Our focus is on breeding sheep with high worm tolerance and more meat but less fat [MyoMAX]. The cattle also have excellent carcass qualities such as intra-muscular fat and high retail beef yield. This autumn we finished 16-month Angus steers at 280kg carcass weight into a high quality Japanese market. The Japanese demand full traceability for the beef and reward desirable meat traits such as pH level and marbling.

*Ceri Lewis*

# General News

## Station Update

After a pretty cold June/July, the past two months have been kind to us and our new 280HP tractor has been running fulltime to ensure the Ag programme is on track. Ted Holmes who has been with us for 15 years has taken on the Ag manager's job and his enthusiasm and drive are a breath of fresh air.

We welcome Matt Middlemass and Amy Douglas who joined us in the autumn. Matt is our hill country manager and Amy is a block manager on the downs.

In September we have said farewell to two long serving staff members. Garry Ferris, who managed "Retreat" for us and more recently was the stock manager at Motu, has thrown his dogs in the back of the ute and headed to the North Island after

tragically losing his wife Josie. Garry is a quality stockman and will be a valuable addition to any operation, we wish him well on his OE.

We also said goodbye to our Cattle Manager Scotty who has been at the Station for ten years. Scotty along with Paul McCarthy, take much of the credit for getting the Mount Linton herd to where it is today, and he is well ready for the next step in his career which is an exciting opportunity in Australia that will give him the new challenges he is looking for. Good luck to Scotty, Anna and Sophie, and we look forward to catching up soon.

We have decided to restructure the cattle operation so that the commercial cows have become a part of Matt and Jamie's responsibility as hill and stock manager respectively and Ceri has taken on the management of the performance recorded cattle.



*The sheer size and scale of the Mount Linton operation was the attraction for Matt Middlemass and Amy Douglas to join the team back in January.*



*General Manager Ceri Lewis prepares to weigh a calf while sons Geth (left) and Jack help record the required information.*

## Upcoming Events at Mount Linton

### MOUNT LINTON DOG TRIAL

This year for the first time the trial will be affiliated to the New Zealand Dog Trial Association. It is considered an open trial where qualifying points for the South Island and NZ championships will be up for grabs. We have had a great deal of interest and extend a welcome to anyone who would like to come out to compete or just for a look and a beer with us. Barbeque lunch available.

**WHEN:** Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th December, 2007

**WHERE:** Rock Hut (signposted from the Station)

### INAUGURAL AUCTION OF MOUNT LINTON CATTLE

Mount Linton is offering a selection of cattle for sale by auction for the first time in Autumn 2008.

**CATTLE ON OFFER:** 250 Rising two-year in-calf heifers  
100 Annual draft cows  
20 Calving-ease bulls

*NB: These numbers are subject to change*

**WHEN:** Thursday 1 May, 2008

**WHERE:** The Station cattle yards (signposted from the Station)

**TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST CONTACT:** Ceri Lewis / M: 021 678 809 / A/H: 03 225 4687

## Motu Update

At the end of September there is barley and a fair chunk of the new grass in the ground. The 11,000 hoggets start to lamb on the 5th October of which 8500 of these are at Motu. The steers have wintered well on a crop of Rape and Italian ryegrass and are now being fully fed on grass.

"Big Al" Stark has joined the team and has been busy subdividing paddocks down to 4ha with the new post driver. This is hoped to increase feed utilisation and quality to keep pushing the post weaning lamb liveweight gains.

### MOTU FACTS

**PURCHASED IN:** April, 2006

**SITUATED:** Lilburn Valley, Monowai

**AREA:** 1,230ha

**POLICY:** Cattle and lamb finishing  
Ewe hogget lambing

# Mount Linton Angus



## BREEDING OBJECTIVE:

"To maximise returns to clients through high fertility, above average Self Replacing Index with increased carcase attributes."

## Mount Linton steers exceed feedlot average

Supplying steers that finished 15 days faster than the feedlot average was an excellent result for Mount Linton in the 11 months to the end of August 2007.

These steers were finished in the ocean beef category at Five Star Beef in Ashburton to carcass weights that exceeded the feedlot average by 16kg carcass weight and yielded 0.88% more. But it was their growth rate of 1.69kg/day that greatly exceeded the feedlot average.

Mount Linton is one of the largest suppliers of quality Angus steers to Five Star Beef and at the end of each month a detailed killing sheet of each carcasses quality and growth attributes is received. This feedback provides an excellent selection and monitoring tool to guide the future of Mount Linton cattle. The results from the past 11 months proved the growth rate and final carcass weights of the steers is on track. They exceeded the feedlot average in each of the three categories Five Star Beef divided them into; long, mid and ocean. Long beef is historically the premium product for Japanese consumers, mid beef is a medium product for the Japanese market and ocean beef is a faster finished product aimed at the Japanese and Korean market. The results from the kill sheets showed the following:

**Long:** Out of 132 steers, 82 excelled the industry average for daily liveweight gains and 88 exceeded the feedlot average for carcass weight. The marbling ability of the steers was also excellent.

**Mid:** Out of 38 steers, 29 showed greater daily liveweight gains than the feedlot average and 21 had better carcass weights and meat yield. These cattle also excelled in the meat quality traits.

**Ocean:** Out of 184 steers, 166 achieved a daily weight gain higher than the feedlot average and 155 had higher carcass weights. The meat yield of 130 steers was also better than the industry average. Meat quality was again exceptional in these cattle.

To gain access to the Japanese and Korean markets the meat quality traits as judged by the consumer are as important as the economic traits such as growth rate, carcass weight and yield. Mount Linton cattle exceeded the average for marbling in each of the three categories.

### FIVE STAR BEEF KILL DATA FOR OCEAN BEEF CATEGORY

	No. Animals	Arrival Weight (kg)	Days on Feed	Daily Gain (kg/day)	Carcass Weight (kg)	Carcass Yield (%)
Mount Linton Average	184	448.19	123	1.69	379.81	58.03
Feedlot Average		451.15	138	1.37	363.09	57.15

## Herd Update

Calving has run very smoothly to date, nearly all the AI females have finished and the naturally mated cows are just beginning. It is interesting to see the calves from the new sires coming through and we will be following their progress with interest.

Ian Moreland from Stud Care Genetics in Australia will be here in the first week of October to semen test our yearling bulls then back again in December for the AI programme. We will again be utilising the Total Genetic Resource Management for our mating programme this year and are looking at adding two or three exciting new sires to the team.

To preview these new bulls [click here](#) to go to the Angus page on [www.mountlinton.co.nz](http://www.mountlinton.co.nz).

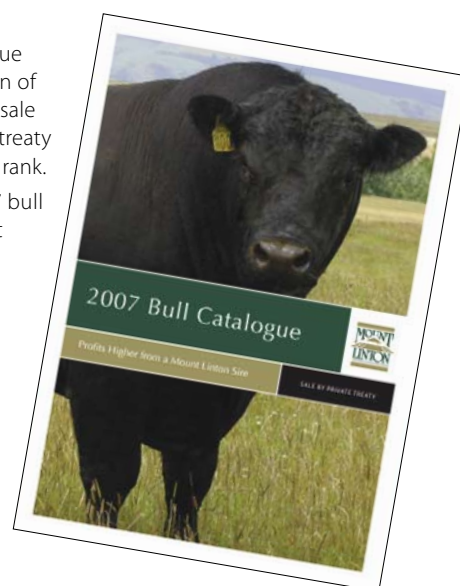
## Bulls On Sale Now

The 2007 Mount Linton Angus bull catalogue is out now. It lists the Breedplan information of 200 carefully selected bulls. All bulls are for sale through October and November by private treaty and are priced according to their Breedplan rank.

If you have not received a copy of the 2007 bull catalogue and would like one please contact Ceri on **021 678 809**, Jocelyn in the office on **03 225 4838** or [click here](#) to go to [www.mountlinton.co.nz](http://www.mountlinton.co.nz).

### FOR THE FIRST TIME....

Mount Linton is offering clients the opportunity to select top genetic bulls as yearlings but have them delivered at 18-month of age. This service is available for an extra cost of \$500/bull.



# Mount Linton Texels & Suftex



## BREEDING OBJECTIVE:

"To maximise returns to clients through increased meat and growth without compromising fertility and survival."

## WormFEC programme stepped up a notch

Introducing a faecal consistency score (FCS) to the WormFEC programme on Mount Linton has meant the selection criteria for sires just got harder.

The FCS grades an animal's faeces on its potential to cause dags using a scale of one to five, one being ideal. To score a one rams must have faeces like marbles and at the other extreme very runny faeces scores a five. This form of genetic selection has a heritability score of 25% which is higher than first thought. The rams on Mount Linton will be scored twice in the spring alongside a final faecal egg count.



*These rams show a variation in faecal consistency score. The Texel two-tooth rams have endured a sustained period of high parasite pressure this winter. This has succeeded in highlighting the rams that can continue to perform and grow under these conditions.*

Adding a FCS to the Texel ram selection criteria certainly raises the bar for their performance, and is another step towards the goal of producing dag free sheep whose progeny only require a maximum of one drench.

### WormFec rams must now meet the following requirements for selection:

- ▲ Rank within the top 5% on either the meat or dual-purpose index
- ▲ Have a faecal egg count below 300eggs/gram in October
- ▲ And have two faecal consistency scores of 1 (like marbles)

## Latest SILACE results

The latest SILACE results came out in August and again Mount Linton Genetics were prominent:

- ▲ Ten rams in the top 200 for Terminal Sire Index
- ▲ Six rams in the top 200 for Dual Purpose Index
- ▲ Six in the top 100 for Dual Purpose WormFEC Index
- ▲ Five trait leaders for Reproduction

For more information [click here](#) to go to the ACE link on [www.sil.co.nz](http://www.sil.co.nz).

## Genetic Unit goes electronic

There will be no squinting to read ear tags on the genetic unit from now on. The flock of 1500 ewes and 500 ewe hoggets were ear tagged with electronic devices this winter to ensure greater accuracy and efficiency of performance recording. The progeny from the flock will be also tagged at tailing time.

Electronic identification (EID) eliminates tag reading errors and allows information such as weaning weights to be directly correlated to EID numbers and sent electronically to the appropriate information bureau.



*Some of the latest progeny from the flock at Mount Linton.*

## Book your Rams Now

Terminal Texel and Suftex rams plus dual purpose Texel sires are available for selection from November. Book now to ensure we meet your ram needs.



*A selection of two-tooth rams available for sale.*